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WIPING OUT EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE

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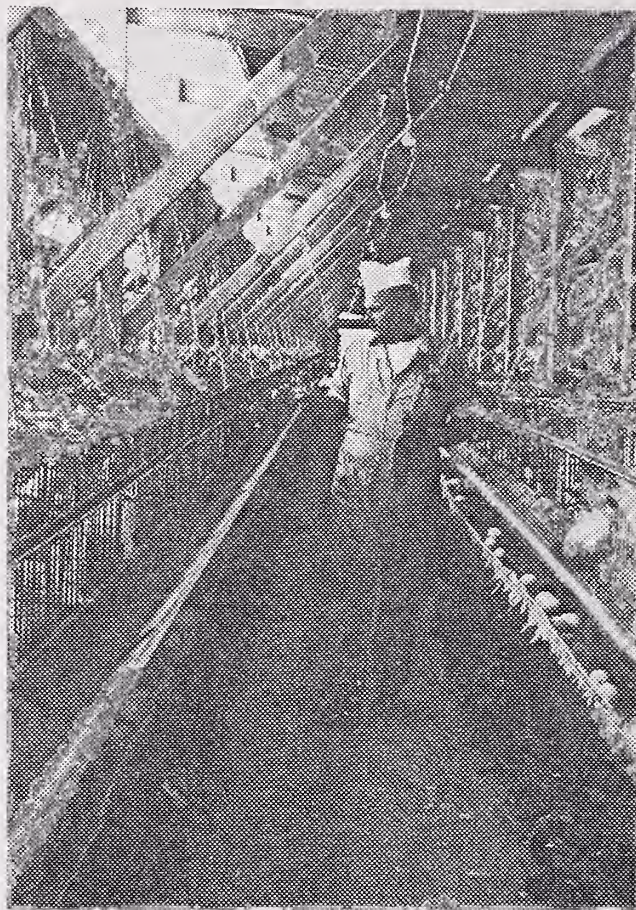
Samples for laboratory tests were taken from chickens on ranches (above—0472 X 485-21) where exotic Newcastle disease infection was suspected. If the tests showed the virus was present, appraisers moved in to count the birds before they were destroyed (above right—0873 X 1404-3). Later the owner was indemnified for his losses.

In March 1972 the United States faced its biggest animal health emergency in more than 40 years.

The country had been invaded by exotic Newcastle—a foreign virus disease that kills poultry and other birds.

Moving through southern California's poultry-rich San Bernardino Valley, the disease threatened to spread throughout the country. Its target: The nation's supply of poultry and eggs.

Responding to the crisis, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz declared a national animal disease emergency.



His action mobilized over one thousand people and made federal funds available to battle the disease.

Stopping exotic Newcastle required the quarantine of more than 45,000 square miles in southern California and the destruction of more than 11 million poultry and other birds.

By the end of August 1973—less than 18 months after the emergency was declared—the last area quarantine was removed. A disease that threatened to cripple the nation's \$6 billion poultry industry had been stopped.

Coordinating this fight was a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) team of veterinarians and technicians trained to deal with foreign animal diseases such as exotic Newcastle. With the aid of the California Department of Agriculture, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Emergency Programs organized a State-Federal Task Force to wipe out this foreign disease.

Now the Task Force is engaged in a surveillance program to make sure that exotic Newcastle has, indeed, been eradicated from the United States.



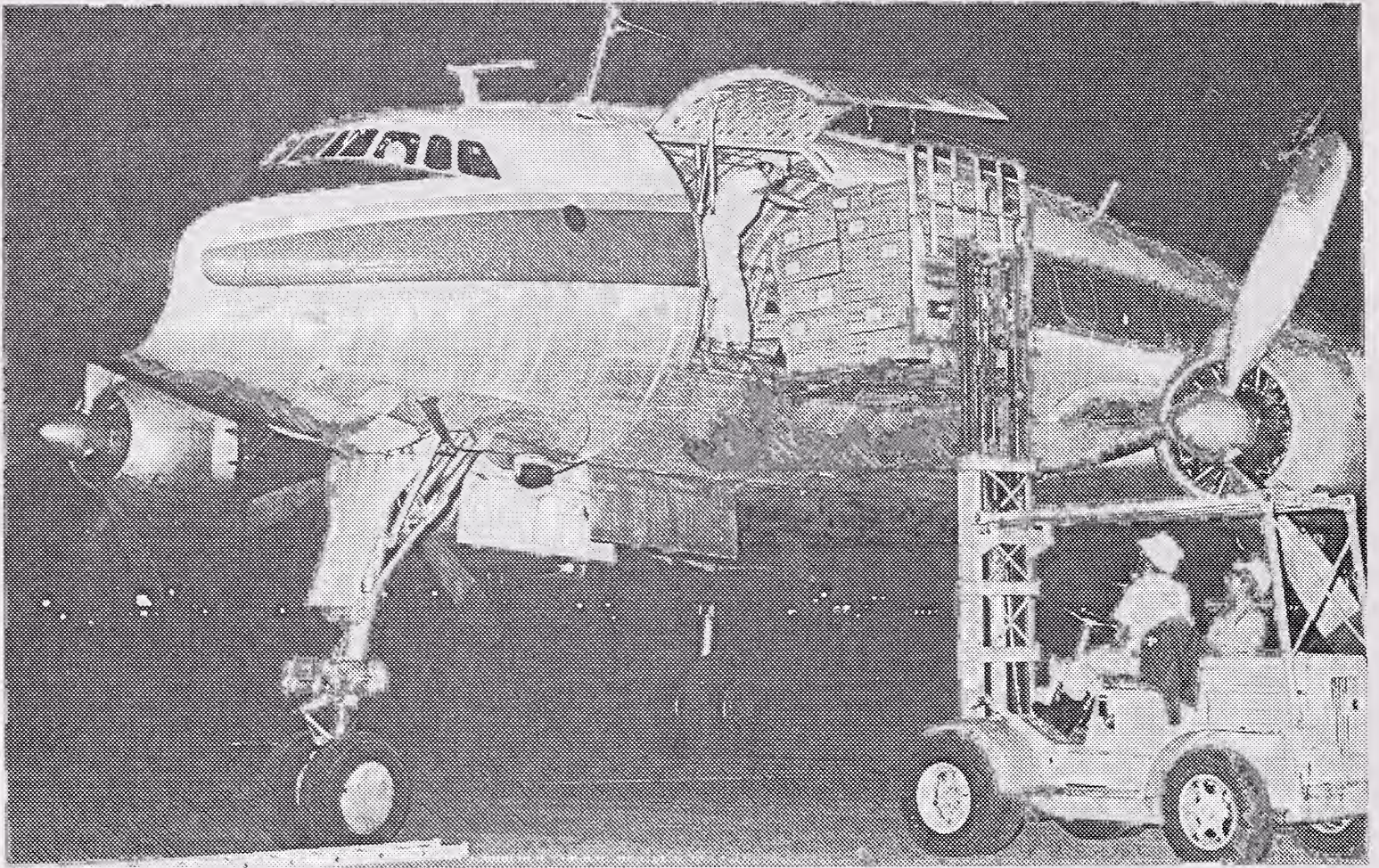
To stop the spread of exotic Newcastle disease, a quarantine barrier was thrown up around southern California (left—0472 X 457-29 and above—0472 X 456-16). Truckers were stopped to see if they were carrying eggs. Dirty eggs or shipping crates could have spread the disease to the rest of the country.

Infected chickens were, in effect, virus "factories." To lessen the chance for disease spread, millions of infected birds had to be destroyed. Most were sent to rendering plants, where carcasses were sterilized and processed into animal feeds (right—0472 X 476-3). Commercial poultrymen, as well as small backyard raisers and breeders of chickens, exotic birds and pigeons were affected. In all cases, infected and exposed birds were humanely destroyed.



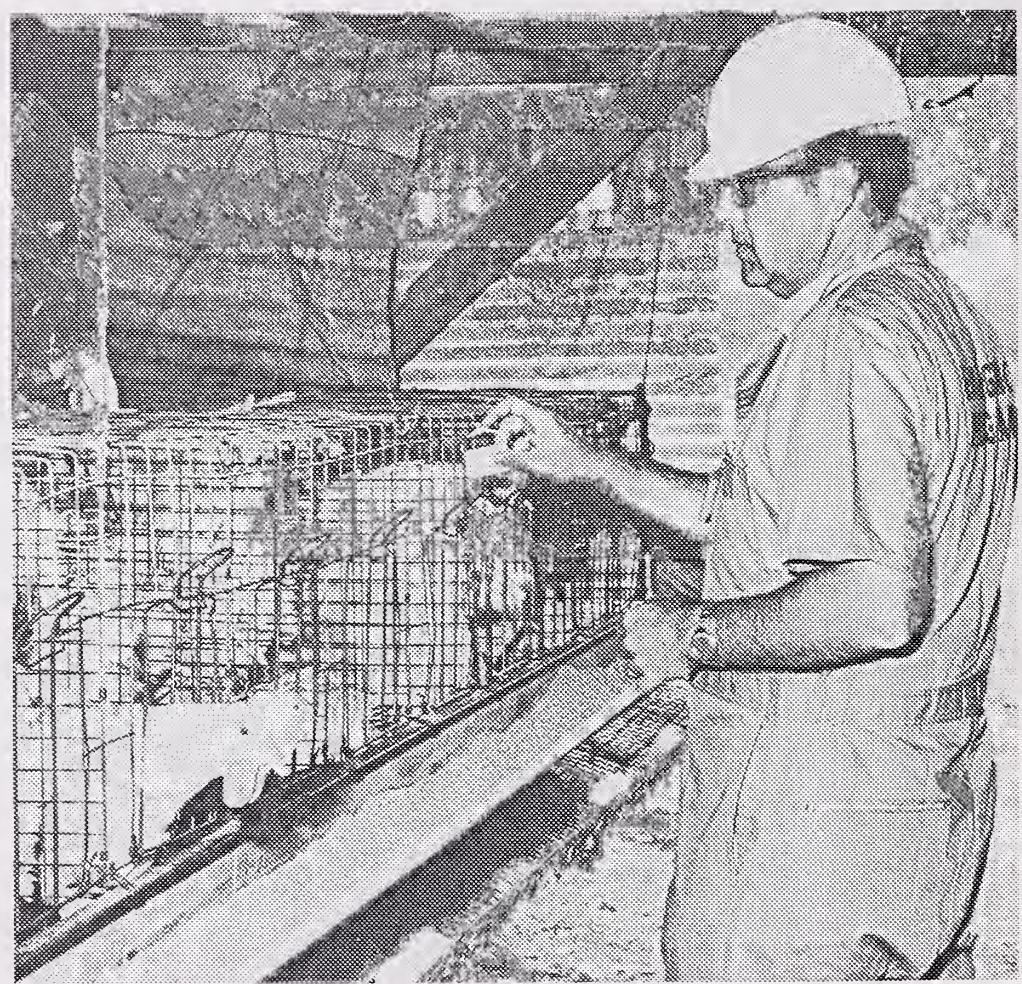
The word of the day was cleanliness, both for personnel and facilities. Disposable boots were used by coverall-clad workers. Every ranch had to be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before it could be restocked (0472 X 462-9).





Currently
disease D
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Highly susceptible chickens—raised in a special environment to be free of most diseases arrived at Ontario, Calif. Airport. They were placed as “sentinels” in poultry flocks. If the susceptible “sentinels” became sick or died, tests were run to determine if exotic Newcastle was the cause. If the “sentinels” remained healthy, this provided evidence that the flock was free of the foreign disease (above—1072 X 1437-20 and right —1072 X 1434-5).



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Currently the APHIS Emergency Programs Task Force is conducting a surveillance program to detect any further outbreaks of exotic Newcastle disease. Dead birds are regularly collected at poultry ranches and taken to the laboratory for postmortem examination and testing. Although exotic Newcastle disease can kill poultry and other birds, it is not a hazard to consumer of eggs and poultry products (0472 X 484-15).



